Episode 74 Ripley

THEY ARE A RARE GROUP OF PEOPLE THAT FAR SURPASSES THE LIMITS OF AN AVERAGE HUMAN.
THEY ARE CALLED WITCHES DUE TO THE MAJORITY OF THEM BEING WOMEN

A HUMAN'S BODY CANNOT POSSIBLY ENDURE THE MONSTROUS AMOUNT OF MANA ...
AS SUCH, IF LEFT ALONE, THEY WILL SURELY PERISH WITHIN A YEAR.
HOWEVER, LIKE NECROMANCERS, THE HUMANS ALSO FEARED THE WITCHES.
SO THE WITCHES WERE USUALLY EXECUTED OR BANISHED TO REMOTE ISLANDS BEFORE THEY SUCCUMBED TO THEIR OWN FATE.
SO NICOLA-DONO ALSO EXPERIENCED THE SAME SUFFERING AS US ...
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NICOLA WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY NOBLE ...
SHE WAS RAISED WITH LOTS OF LOVE FROM BOTH HER PARENTS.
HOWEVER, 7 YEARS AFTER SHE WAS BORN ...

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SHE LOST EVERYTHING WHEN SHE BECAME A WITCH.
THAT KIND OF MONSTER, JUST KILL IT!
THAT THING ISN'T MY DAUGHTER!
THEN YOU DO IT!
WHAT IF SHE RESISTS US AND END UP KILLING US!?
GOOD THING THAT MONSTER CAN ONLY LIVE FOR ANOTHER YEAR
IT CAN JUST LIVE OUT ITS LIFE IN THE STABLE.
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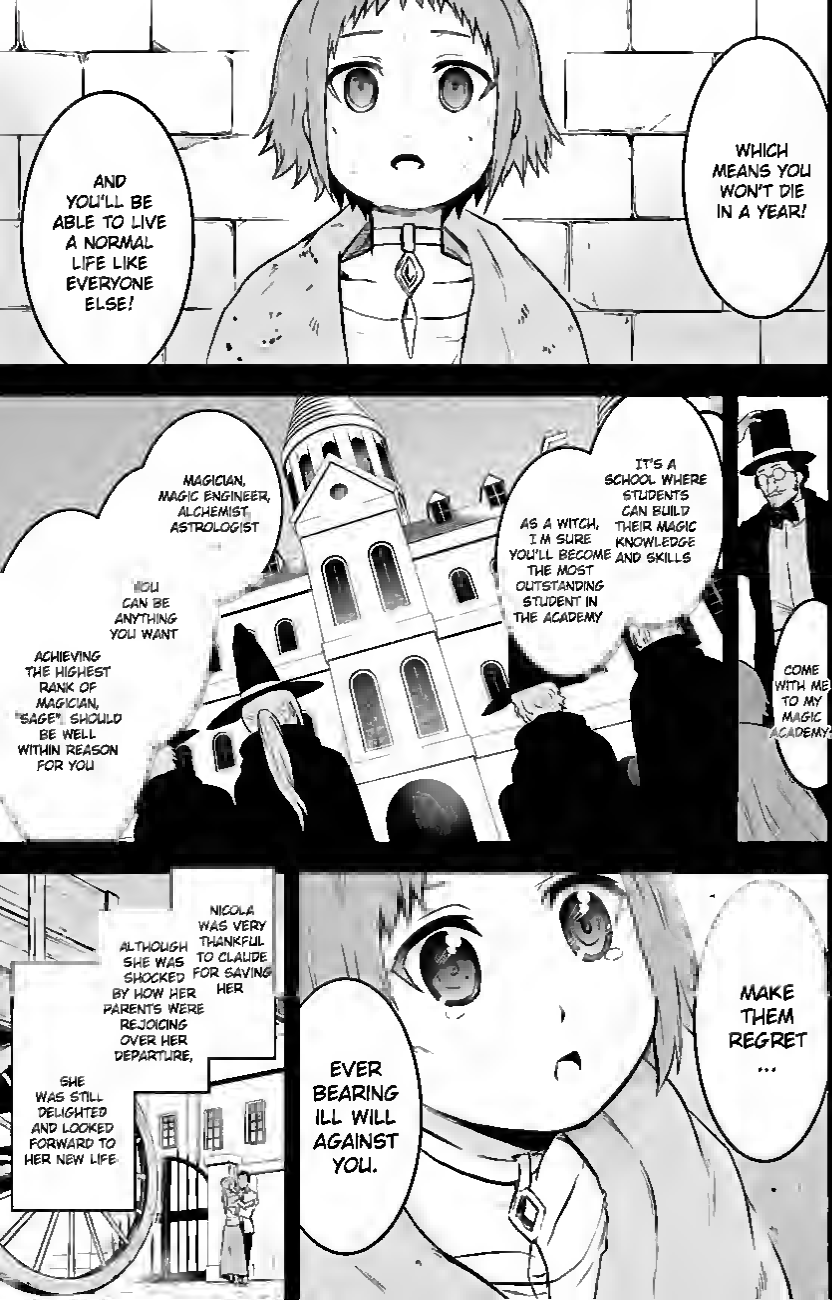
IT'S ALL BECAUSE NICOLA IS THE DAUGHTER OF THE NOBLES THAT NO ONE DARED TO BEAT HER.
BUT HER PARENTS AND THE VILLAGERS ALL SHUNNED HER. TO A 7 YEAR OLD GIRL THIS WAS VERY HARSH.
EVEN-TUALLY NICOLA LOST HER WILL TO LIVE.
SLOWLY WAITING FOR HER IMPENDING DEATH
IT WAS AT THAT TIME A MYSTER-IOUS MAN CAME AND WANTED TO TAKE NICOLA AWAY
I AM THE PRINCIPAL OF A MAGIC ACADEMY, CLAUDE VANCE.
I WILL NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST YOU JUST BECAUSE YOU ARE A WITCH.
THIS IS A CHOKER THAT CAN RESTRAIN YOUR MANA
BY WEARING THIS, YOUR MANA LEVEL WILL BE LOWERED TO AROUND 0.


WHICH MEANS YOU WON'T DIE IN A YEAR!
AND YOU'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!
COME WITH ME TO MY MAGIC ACADEMY.
IT'S A SCHOOL WHERE STUDENTS CAN BUILD THEIR MAGIC KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
AS A WITCH, I'M SURE YOU'LL BECOME THE MOST OUTSTANDING STUDENT IN THE ACADEMY
MAGICIAN, MAGIC ENGINEER, ALCHEMIST, ASTROLOGIST
YOU CAN BE ANYTHING YOU WANT
ACHIEVING THE HIGHEST RANK OF MAGICIAN, "SAGE", SHOULD BE WELL WITHIN REASON FOR YOU
NICOLA WAS VERY THANKFUL TO CLAUDE FOR SAVING HER
ALTHOUGH SHE WAS SHOCKED BY HOW HER PARENTS WERE REJOICING OVER HER DEPARTURE,
SHE WAS STILL DELIGHTED AND LOOKED FORWARD TO HER NEW LIFE
MAKE THEM REGRET ...
EVER BEARING ILL WILL AGAINST YOU.

CLAUDE-SAMA!
HOWEVER, HER DREAMS WERE SHATTERED SOON AFTER ARRIVAL
PRINCIPAL CLAUDE ONLY BROUGHT HER HERE FOR HIS OWN RESEARCH
WHAT IS THIS!?

I WOULDN'T MOVE AROUND TOO MUCH IF I WERE YOU
IF THE TUBES SNAPPED, THEN IT'LL SQUIRT BLOOD EVERYWHERE

BUT IT'S ALL RIGHT
I'VE ALREADY ARRANGED YOUR ENROLMENT

I NEED YOUR HELP TO FURTHER MY RESEARCH
DON'T TELL ME YOU THOUGHT I'D DO EVERYTHING FOR YOU FOR FREE?

THANKS TO YOU, I AM NOW ONE OF THE GREATEST AND MOST RESPECTED MAGICIAN IN THE WORLD!
DUE TO MY RESEARCH BEING ACCEPTED, I AM NOW A SAGE!

TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
THIS BOMB IS CREATED WITH THE HELP OF YOUR MANA. THIS WILL BE REVOLUTIONARY IN FUTURE WARS!

I HAVE TO ESCAPE...
EVERY-ONE IS BULLY-ING ME
I CAN'T STAY HERE ANY-MORE
RUN AS FAR AS I CAN...
TO A PLACE WHERE THERE'LL BE NO ONE ELSE
NO.
YOU'LL DIE
YOUR IDENTITY WILL BE EXPOSED IF YOU RUN AWAY AND YOU'LL BE HUNTED DOWN AND KILLED.
BEFORE YOU ARRIVED, ALL THE OTHER WITCHES TRIED TO ESCAPE AND PERISHED. NOW I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT
LIKE SO, NICOLA BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH THE GIRL HOLDING A BLACK CAT.
I'M RIPLEY.
I AM ALSO A WITCH
RIPLEY WAS ALSO A WITCH BROUGHT TO THE ACADEMY BY CLAUDE
WE'RE IN A VERY VULNERABLE SITUATION RIGHT NOW
SO WHY DON'T WE USE THIS TO OUR ADVANTAGE?

I'VE DECIDED TO STAY HERE AND BECOME A SAGE
I'LL GAIN INFLUENCE AND POWER, THEN CHANGE THE POSITION OF WITCHES!
SINCE WE'RE ALL HUMANS I'M SURE THEY'LL ACCEPT US ONE DAY!

WELL
I WAS BORN IN THE SLUMS
I'M DESTINED TO LIVE A CRUMMY LIFE NO MATTER WHERE I GO
SO BEING A WITCH IS A BLESSING

YOU'RE ...
REALLY STRONG ...

DO YOU WANT TO BECOME A SAGE WITH ME?
SAY...

AT NIGHT, THEY WOULD SNEAK OUT OF THEIR DORMS AND GO TO AN ABANDONED SHACK TO DO EXPERIMENTS
AFTERWARDS, NICOLA AND RIPLEY STARTED BORROWING BOOKS AND RESEARCHING EVERYTHING RELATED TO MAGIC
THE ONCE DEPRESSED NICOLA...
WAS ABLE TO SMILE AGAIN AFTER SPENDING TIME WITH RIPLEY
THEY SOON BECAME EACH OTHER'S REASON TO LIVE

CLAUDE'S ONGOING EXPERIMENTS BECAME WORSE AND WORSE
BUT THEIR GOAL KEPT THEM GOING.
FINALLY THEY'VE OBTAINED THE HIGHEST GRADES WITHIN THE ACADEMY
BECOMING A SAGE WAS WELL WITHIN THEIR REACH.

HOWEVER, 3 YEARS AGO ...
THE ACADEMY WAS DESTROYED BY THE 4 DUKES.

I HAVE TO GO BACK ...
I...
WE'RE SAVED ...
NO RIPLEY!
THEY DISCRI-MINATED AGAINST US WITCHES!
JUST LEAVE THEM DIE!!
THANK GOD WE CAME TO THE SHACK
THAT WON'T DO, NICOLA ...
SOMETHING LIKE THAT. ISN'T THAT THE SAME AS ACCEPTING WE'RE NOT HUMANS?
SINCE WE'RE ALL HUMANS ...
WE CANNOT JUST WATCH OUR FELLOW KINS DIE
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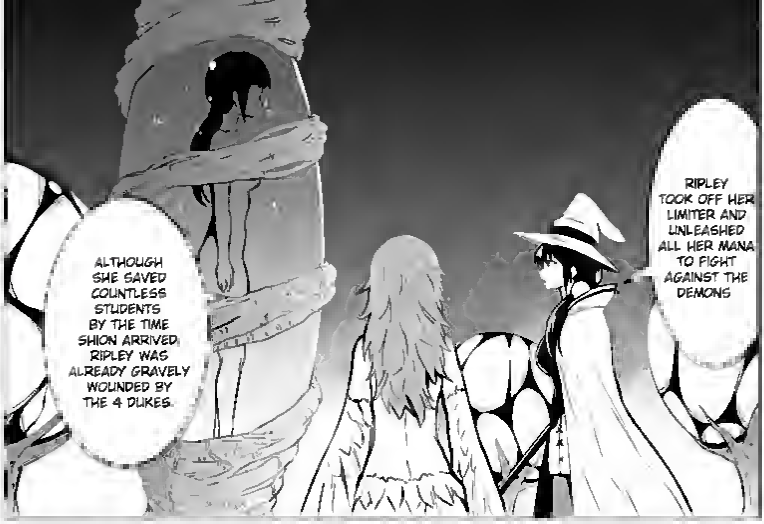
RIPLEY TOOK OFF HER LIMITER AND UNLEASHED ALL HER MANA TO FIGHT AGAINST THE DEMONS
ALTHOUGH SHE SAVED COUNTLESS STUDENTS BY THE TIME SHION ARRIVED, RIPLEY WAS ALREADY GRAVELY WOUNDED BY THE 4 DUKES.

EVEN NOW, NICOLA IS STILL RE-SEARCHING TO RE-SURRECT THE DEAD
I'M AFRAID THIS BECAME NICOLA'S ONLY REASON FOR LIVING

I HAD NO IDEA
NICOLA-DONO HAD SUCH A TRAGIC PAST

AND THE OTHER ONE... ANRI, IS IT.
THAT'S RIGHT... YOU'RE SPOT ON, DOROTHY.

THAT'S DIANA-DONO ...!
NICOLA-DONO AND ...
TAKE CARE OF THEM WITH THE MONSTERS.
NICOLA.
THEN THAT MEANS THE HERO IS ALSO HERE.
SINCE ANRI IS HERE ...
NOW WE HAVE OUR GUINEA PIGS.
WELL, ISN'T THIS PERFECT ...
WERE YOU PLANNING TO GIVE ME A SURPRISE?
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME?
HEY, NICOLA.

THIS STAFF IS CALLED "IMPERIUM".
THIS MAKES "MAGIC BEINGS".
THE MONSTERS AND PEOPLE WITHIN THE FOREST CAN ALL BE CONTROLLED WITH THIS STAFF.
THIS STAFF IS BASED ON NECROMANCY, DEVELOPED ON THE PRINCIPLE OF REMOTE NECROMANCY.

I CAN COMMAND THEM ALL TO ATTACK YOU.
WITH THIS STAFF, WHETHER IT'S THE VILLAGERS OR THE SURROUNDING MONSTERS...

IF YOU STILL WISH TO LIVE, THEN VOW TO NOT GET IN THE WAY AND LEAVE PEACEFULLY.
TELL YOUR COMPANIONS TO DO THE SAME.
ARA.
YOU CAN'T BE SO GENTLE WITH THEM.
I SAID TO TAKE CARE OF THEM.
NICOLA ...
IF YOU BETRAY ME—
THEN YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH YOUR RESEARCH, YOU KNOW?
DON'T YOU WANT TO REVIVE RIPLEY?
ISN'T SHE THE ONLY PERSON WHO CAN UNDERSTAND YOU? ISN'T SHE YOUR IMPORTANT FRIEND?

I UNDERSTAND...
YOU WERE DOING THIS TO PROTECT YOURSELF... YOU ARE ACTUALLY VERY KIND DEEP DOWN ...
NO, NICOLA
YOU ACTUALLY PLANNED TO STEP IN IF ANRI AND THEM ARE MET WITH REAL DANGER ...
THERE'S NO REASON TO FORCE YOURSELF TO GO AGAINST YOUR WILL FOR YOUR RESEARCH ...
THAT'S RIGHT! NICOLA-DONO!
TO TAKE THE LIVES OF YOUR COMPANIONS, HERO-DONO WOULD BE VERY DISAPPOINTED!
BUT, RIPLEY!
IF I DON'T FURTHER MY RESEARCH ...
RIPLEY WILL...!

TIME'S UP.
OKAY.
OH WELL WE'VE ALREADY PLANNED ON—
GETTING RID OF YOU ONCE WE GET OUR MONSTERS

GATHER, MY MINIONS
AND SLAUGHTER THESE FOOLS
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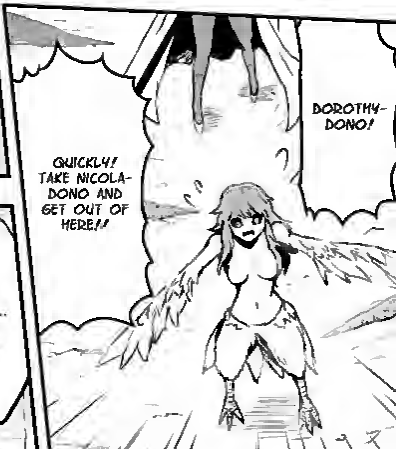
DO-RO-THY-DO-NO?
LUGH.


DOROTHY-DONO!
QUICKLY! TAKE NICOLA-DONO AND GET OUT OF HERE!!

DOROTHY IS...
IT'S NO USE... STUPID ANRI...

A MAGICAL BEING...
CREATED BY RIPLEY AND I...!

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WHAT!?
EVEN DOROTHY DONO IS BEING CONTROLLED ...!
NO... NOW IS NOT THE TIME TO FREAK OUT ...
I HAVE TO GET NICOLA-DONO ND...
ESCAPE ...!

I CAN'T JUST LEAVE RIPLEY'S BODY THERE!
LET GO!
STUPID AHRI! LET GO OF ME!
HEY ...
LET GO...
YOU'LL DIE IF I LET GO!
LET'S REGROUP WITH TOUKA-DONO FIRST!
YOU'LL DEFINITELY DIE IF YOU GO BACK.
YOU'LL ALSO DIE ...
BUT... IF YOU DON'T LET GO..

ADDING SOPORIFIC DRUGS INSIDE THE SANDWICHES
I KNEW SOMETHING WAS FISHY
GEEZ, SUCH AN OBVIOUS TRAP.
EVEN TOUKA-KUN WOULD BE ABLE TO TELL.
YEAH... IT'S A LOAD OFF MY CHEST.
AND SINCE YUNA-SAN IS ALSO WITH HIM, THERE'S NO WAY THEY'LL FALL FOR THIS.
SO MARGARET-KUN...
ABOUT THE HIGH RANKED MAGIC

LOOKS LIKE...
YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO LEARN IT THROUGH EXPERIENCE.
GAAA AAAH!
I CAN'T GET THIS LOOSE AT ALL!

COME!
HOLY SWORD!
YOUR TRAINING ISN'T EVEN OVER YET!
USING SLEEPING DRUGS TO TRAP US HERE, WHAT ARE THE VILLAGERS PLANNING!
...
WE'RE SAVED!
FREE ME AS WELL!
... CALLING THE HOLY SWORD LIKE THIS, GETTING OUT IS BUT A CAKEWALK!
HAAAH!?
SINCE BOTH OF YOUR HANDS ARE CUFFED, I'M HAVE AN ADVANTAGE!
WELL THEN, LET'S CONTINUE OUR TRAINING!

HOW CAN YOU STILL SAY THAT IN THIS SITUATION!
STOP STOP! SERIOUSLY STOP!
HEY MAN, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID MY TRAINING ISN'T OVER YET.
I WAS JUST GOING WITH THE FLOW ...!
REMEMBER HOW YOU ALSO DIDN'T STOP WHEN YOU WERE BEATING ME TO DEATH?
SO BEFORE THE KNEESOCKS ARE ON YOU, I ALSO HAVE NO REASON TO STOP!
WA WA WA-IT!
TOU-KA...!
BEHIND YOU!
THERE ARE MON-STERS COMING FROM BEHIND YOU!
LET ME FREE, AND WE'LL FIGHT THEM!

I'M BUSY RIGHT NOW, DAMMIT!!
ANRI-CHAN...! MAR-GARET-SAN...!
SOMEONE! SAVE ME ...!! ANYONE!
THE HINDRANCES ARE GONE, LET US CONTINUE
NOOO OOO!!

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DRA-
GON!?
I'M
SAVED!!

Guardian Beast

KUKUKU... I GOT RID OF THE GOBLINS, IT'S TIME FOR NAKED KNEESOCKS!
ANRI-CHAN! MARGARET-SAN! SOMEONE SAVE ME!
HUH...?
THE SCRIPT SAID THERE'LL BE A DRAGON HERE!
WHY ISN'T IT HERE!?
WAIT... WAIT TOUKA!
IF I'M CUFFED AND STRIPPED, THIS SCENE WILL BECOME PRETTY BAD!
IF YOU KEEP GOING, YOUR FAVORABILITY POINTS WILL PLUMMET!
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT, NAKED KNEE SOCKS IS MORE IMPORTANT!!
IYAAAAA!! DRAGON! COME FASTER!!
THIS IS THE END!
IMPOSSIBLE!!
THE DRAGONS APPEARED INSTEAD OF MOSAIC...!!
THERE ARE THE DRAGONS!!

Dangerous Technique

YOU WANT TO LEARN ABOUT HIGH RANKED MAGIC?
YES I BELIEVE KYLE-SAN WOULD BE WELL VERSED IN THIS FIELD.
BUT YOU KNOW, I CAN'T JUST TEACH IT ALL WILLY-NILLY
PERHAPS IF YOU WAGER A FEW OF YOUR FAROM SKILLS, I MIGHT CONSIDER IT...
ARE FAROM BONDAGE TECHNIQUE AND INSTANT DISGUISE TECHNIQUE OKAY?
I UNDER-STAND.
HOWEVER, I CANNOT TEACH YOU FAROM INSTANT UNDRESSING TECHNIQUE "EMPTY EXUVIA"
WHY SO? I'M ALWAYS NAKED ANYWAYS.
THAT'S UPSETTING, MARGARET-KUN
SORRY
EMPTY EXUVIA IS A VERY DANGEROUS TECHNIQUE THAT CAN RUIN YOUR LIFE.
I USED IT TO DODGE THE ATTACKS FROM THOSE HOOLI-GANS
I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE
I CAN'T... LET ANY MORE PEOPLE BECOME CRIMINALS ...
CAPITAL
WHEN WILL YOU LEARN!?
WE'VE WARNED YOU BEFORE! DON'T USE EMPTY EXUVIA ON THE STREETS!

FAROM INSTANT
UNDRESSING
TECHNIQUE
"EMPTY EXUVIA"